

TO OUR
REVEREND
AND
VVell-beloved Brethren
THE
Assembly of Divines at VWestminster,
THE
Ministers of LONDON, and all o-
ther well-affected Brethren of the Ministry
in ENGLAND.

Presented to the Ministers of London
this 13th. of December 1647.

Decemb. 13. 1647.

Imprimatur Ja. Cranford.

LONDON,
Printed for Ralph Smith; 1647.

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AND

VALD-PSALMED BESPINNEN

THE

ALLEGORY OF DIVINES IN ANGELUS

THE

MINISTERS OF LONDON, AND ALL OTHER

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

IN ENGLAND.

Pledged to the Ministers of London

Upon the 25th of December, 1647.

Dumpe 1647.

Imprimatur. [The Catalogue.]

London

Printed for R. & J. Smith; 1647.



Our Reverend and welbeloved Bre-
thren, The Assembly of Divines at
Westminster.

Right Reverend and dearly beloved Brethren:

AS the Generall Assembly of this Church, and their Commissioners have upon many former occasions, expressed their great respects and speciall affection to our Brethren of England, and how much they valued and minded

the Lord's work there: Of which also their actions have been reall Testimonies. So we have thought good in this present juncture, or rather dis-juncture of affaires to adde this new Testimony and sybbole of brotherly love: And so much the more, left either the Commissioners of this Church, their retinue from London to their particular flocks, after fourte yeaeres absence: shonelly informations spread by disaffected persons: which make some of our Brethren in that Kingdome, grow somewhat lesse confident of the constancy of our affection to them, and to that commandement, which both they and we did undertake, and are obliged to prosecute with our best endeavours all the dayes of our lives. Wherefore wee doe at once both desir and trust that our Brethren will be as confident as ever Brethren were of Brethren, that by the

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grace

grace and assistance of Jesus Christ come what may come, no alteration of affairs whatsoever shall ever remove us from those principles and intentions, which have been professed before God and all the world, in our solemn Covenant, and in our publick Declarations from time to time. We should think it a greater sin in us than in others, and should certainly expect a dreadfull curse and exemplary judgement from the righteous God, if ever there shall be cause to say that the Church of Scotland remembred not the brotherly Covenant. We owe indeed all loyall subjection, and lawfull obediance to the King. Neither shall our prayers and best endeavours bee wanting for the preservation and defence of his Royall person and authority in the preservation and defence of the true Religion and liberties of the Kingdomes : but God forbid that we should ever seperate or connive at any who would seperate what the Covenant linketh together, the glory of God and good of Religion, being alwayes the principall, and Gods interest more then Cæsars, although not exclusive of Cæsars. obligation to our Country

And now deare Brethren, although we are confident of you through the Lord, that you neither are, nor will be otherwise minded then to stand fast in the truth of Christ, and to be faithfull to the death in the Covenant you have taken, yet give us leave to stir you up, by putting you in remembrance, That whereto you and we have already attained, there may bee a walking by the same rule, and minding of the same thing.

The Directory of worship being about two yeares agoe agreed upon by the Assemblies, and Parliaments of both Kingdomes.

The Doctrinall part of Church Government agreed upon by the reverend & learned Assembly of Divines was at the same time with the Directory of worship approved by the generall Assembly and ratified by the Parliament of this Kingdome, the Confession of Faith is also approved by the last generall Assembly as sound and orthodoxe for the matter, and agreed unto on their part, that it be a part of the uniformity and a Confession of Faith for the Churches of Christ in the three Kingdomes.

The other things communicated from thence unto this Church, namely a Directory of Church Government Catechisme, and new paraphrase of the Psalms in metre are printed and published here, to be considered and examined against the next generall Assembly to be held in July 1648, we wish and hope that you all may stand fast and firme together in the same principles & rules, and that these results of so long and learned Syndicall debates may generally find acceptance through the Kingdome; It cannot be expected that such a Reformation as is according to the mind of Christ, and tendeth to the casting out of *Satans* Kingdome, to the censoring of prophannesse, and suppressing of terrors and heresie, can be carried on without a mighty and strong opposition: But how strong soever the opposition be, it is but the strenght of *Satan* and wicked men; the weapons of your warre farre (if well handled) are more strong and mighty through God to the casting downe of every thing that exalteth it selfe against the Kingdome of Christ. The eyes of God, Angells, and Man, are now in a more speciall manner upon you, observing how to acquit your selves in this time of tryall.

Blessed.

Blessed shall they be whosoeuer shall not be offended at the covenant and cause of Christ, but shall bee ready to speake, doe or suffer for it, whatsoever God calleth them unto; and shall neither be ashamed of it when it is set aside and abandoned by many, nor afraid to own it, and to give a good and honest Testimony for it, even when it is opposed and persecuted.

We know your temptations are many and great, yet such as God hath in his word forewarned you of, promising withall that with your temptation, he will make a way to escape that ye may be able to beare it: Faithfull is he who hath called you, who also will doe it. When you are pressed out of measure and above strength, it is that you should not trust to your selves but to God. So that when you are weak then are you strong, and when the adversaries of truth are strong, then are they weak. Be it therefore far from you, to be overcome with the temptations either on the right hand by compliance, and doing evill that good may come of it, or on the left, by a despondency of spirit, and casting away of your confidence, which as we trust you will not; so if any among you should there wil be cause to say to him as once it was said to Job, Behold thou hast infirmitied many, and strengthened the weake hands. Thy words have upholden him that was falling, and thou hast strengthened the feeble knees: But now it is come upon thee and thou faintest, it toucheth thee, and thou art troubled. It is indeed the amazement of the Christian world, that after such a Solemn Covenant for extirpation of heresie and schisme, these pernicious plants have been suffered to spread more then ever before.

Tis also a stupendious judgement of God that a lit-

the hornes should grow forth, and wax great, and have
 an host given it against the daily sacrifice by reason
 of transgression, yea, to cast downe the truth to the
 ground, practising and prospering, and even by
 peace destroying many. Such things God hath per-
 mitted long agoe, yet but for a time, having pre-
 mitted a certaine period thereunto. Truth was at
 last victorious and so shall be. Meane while the great-
 er and more horrid the present evills be, tis the more
 necessary for you, and you have the clearer call from
 God to give testimony against them and the greater
 were the sinne and danger if you should not: But we
 are the more confident that you shall not fall under
 this sinne and danger, because you have already by
 your Sermons and Writings so much witnessed for
 the truth, and against the errors of these times.
 This we must further say from our owne experience,
 that faithfull endeavours of these who were both few
 and weake, in the greatest extremities, and in the dif-
 ficulties appeared most insuperable, have not wanted
 a blessing and comfortable successse. God can as ea-
 sily drive all the monsterous Errors and Heresies
 out of England, as once he tooke away all the locusts
 out of Egypt by a mighty strong west wind, so that
 there remained not one locust in all the coasts of Egypt.
 God can make the earth to open her mouth, and
 swallow up the flood which the Dragon cast out of his
 mouth: it is not in vaine in the worst of times to bee
 witnesses for Christ and for his truth, to do duty and
 trust God with events. As many as walke according
 to this rule, and will yet sincerely constantly and real-
 ly endeavour that by their Covenant they are bound
 to do, shall find that their labour is not in vaine in the

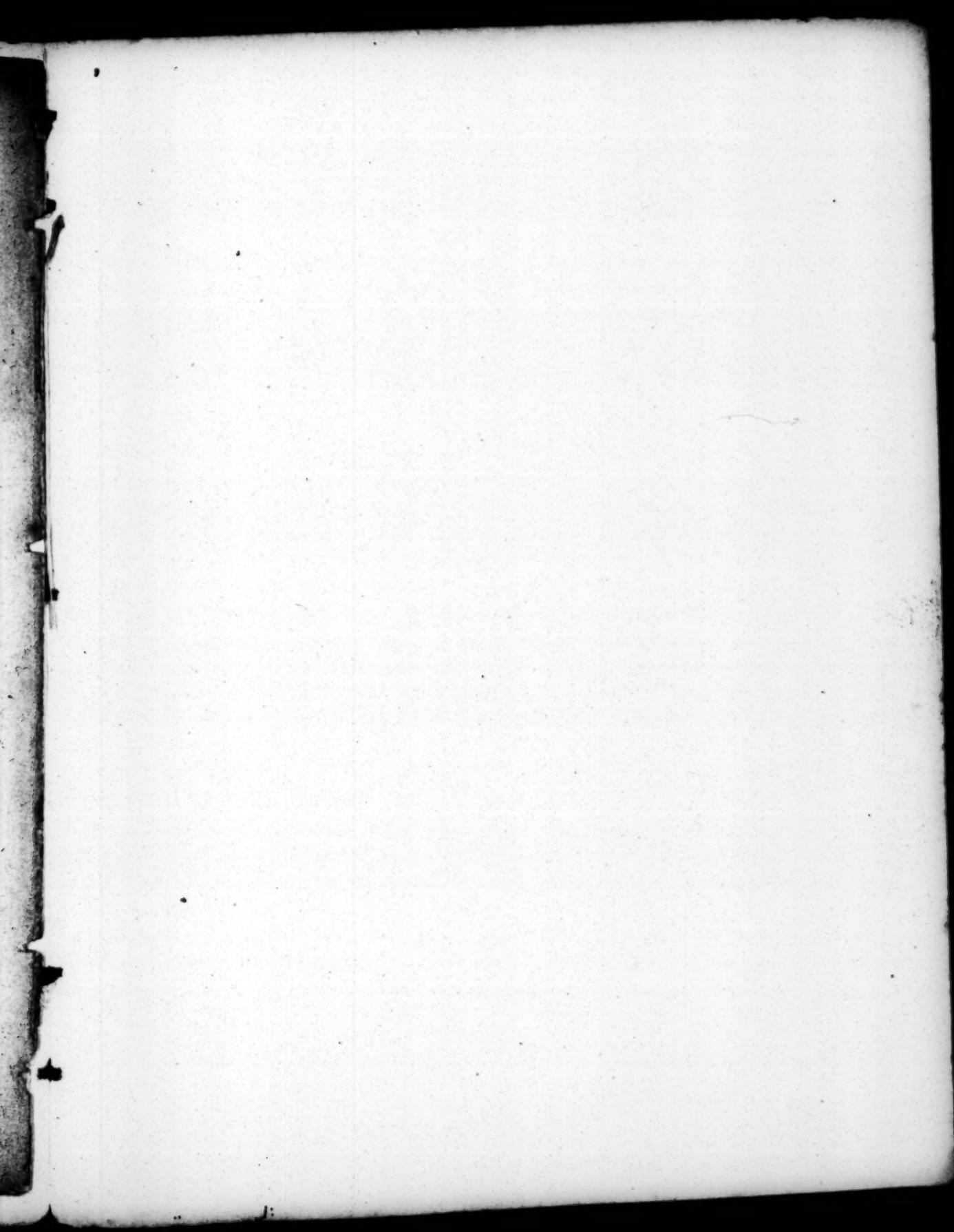
Lord.

Lord, the very glory of Jesus Christ is highly concerned, and his name interest, and ingaged to repudiate, disclaime and overthrow those wayes of Errour, Schisme, Heresie, felle interest, and carnall policy, falsely gathered by many upon Christ, under the names of tender Consciencies, Saints, and the like, &c. And for our part you are in our hearts to dye and live with you, and we cease not to make mention of you in our prayers daily: believing also that God hath thoughts of peace towards you and not of evill, to give you an expected end; and that when he hath humbled his people under his mighty hand, and brought them to an acknowledgment of those offences which are the true causes of his controversie, he will awake for their helpe, and appeare for their joy; And then they who are by a temporary successe hardened in wayes of error or malignancy, shall see it and be ashamed, and shall wonder and perish, but / peape shall be upon Israel.

Subscribed in name of the
Edinburgh 26 of November 1647.
Committee of the
General Assembly of the
Kirke of Scotland by

M. Robert Douglas Moderator.

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